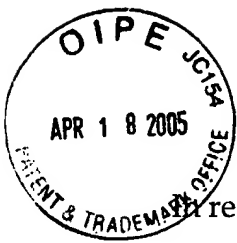


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re patent application of:) Attorney Docket F-173
Frederick W. Ryan, Jr.) Group Art Unit: 3629
Serial No.: 09/626,954) Examiner: Richard Sukyoon Woo
Filed: July 27, 2000) Customer No. 00919
Confirmation No.: 9430) Date: 14 April 2005
For: **POSTAGE METERING SYSTEM FOR USE WITH BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

PETITION TO WITHDRAW FROM ISSUANCE

Mail Stop Petitions
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. Applicant hereby petitions for the withdrawal of this application from issue.
2. The issue fee for this application was paid on February 8, 2005. This application has not yet been scheduled to issue.

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL REQUEST

3. The reason for withdrawal from issue is to allow for the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed herewith so that new references identified in a European Search Report, issued February 5, 2005, from a corresponding European patent application may be considered.

EXPRESS ABANDONMENT

4. This application is expressly abandoned in favor of the Continued Prosecution Application filed herewith under the same attorney docket number.
5. Please charge the petition fee of \$130.00 under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 and any other required fees to Charge Account 16-1885. A copy of the within Petition is enclosed.

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6. Applicant respectfully requests a refund of the issue fee of \$1400.00 paid on February 8, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph C. Kirincich

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Attorney for Applicant

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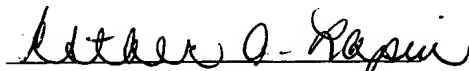
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop Petitions
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on April 14, 2005
Date of Deposit

Esther A. Lapin
Name of Rep.



Signature

April 14, 2005
Date